What Is Claimed Is:

1. A digital camera, comprising:

an image pickup portion which converts light from an object to be photographed, into image data;

a producing device which produces characteristic data from the image data;

a secret key-recording portion which records a secret key to be used for encrypting data so that encrypted data can be decrypted by a public key;

an encrypting device which encrypts the characteristic data with the secret key;

an embedding device which embeds encrypted characteristic data into the image data;

a recording medium which records the image data having the characteristic data embedded therein; and

a transmitting device which transmits the secret key from an external recording medium.

2. A digital camera, comprising:

an image pickup portion which converts light from an object to be photographed, into image data;

a producing device which produces characteristic data from the image data;

a secret key-recording portion which records a secret key to be used for encrypting data so that encrypted data can be decrypted by a public key;

an encrypting device which encrypts the characteristic data with the secret key;

an embedding device which embeds encrypted characteristic data into the image data; and

a recording medium which records the image data having the characteristic data embedded therein,

wherein the secret key is recorded in the secret key-recording portion in a form of a hidden attribute.

3. A method of adding to a digital camera a function of converting light from an object to be photographed, into image data, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting, from among a plurality of data volumes, the volume of data pertaining to a secret key for encrypting data so that encrypted data can be decrypted by a public key;

recording the secret key into a secret key-recording portion of the digital camera from an external recording medium; and

loading an encryption program into the digital camera through use of the secret key.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the secret key is recorded in a form of a hidden attribute.

5. An image falsification detection system using a digital camera which comprises an image pickup portion which converts light from an object to be photographed, into image data, a first producing device which produces first characteristic data from the image data, a secret key-recording portion which records a secret key to be used for encrypting data so that encrypted data can be decrypted by a public key, an encrypting device which encrypts the first characteristic data with the secret key, an embedding device which embeds encrypted first characteristic data into the image data, and a recording medium which records the image data having the first characteristic data embedded therein, the image falsification detection system comprising:

an inputting device which inputs the image data;

a removing device which removes the encrypted first characteristic data from the image data;

a decrypting device which decrypts the encrypted first characteristic data;

a second producing device which produces second characteristic data from the image data from which the encrypted first characteristic data have been removed; and

a comparing device which compares the decrypted first characteristic data with the second characteristic data.

6. The image falsification detection system of claim 5, further comprising a recording device which records a plurality of public keys corresponding to a plurality of secret keys.

7. The image falsification detection system of claim 5, further comprising a transmitting device which transmits the secret key from an external recording medium.

8. The image falsification detection system of claim 5, wherein the secret key is recorded in the secret key-recording portion in a form of a hidden attribute.